



NOAA
FISHERIES

Every day whales are at risk of becoming entangled in marine debris, moorings, fishing gear, and other lines in the water.

Our goal is to gain information to reduce this threat. Promptly reporting the entanglement to NOAA can increase the survival of these entangled animals. Refer to this material to help entangled whales.

ALASKA REGION

LARGE WHALE ENTANGLEMENT GUIDE

HOW TO RESPOND TO A LARGE WHALE
ENTANGLEMENT SIGHTING IN ALASKA





WHAT TO DO

1

CALL (877) 925-7773

Notify a NOAA official by calling the hotline.

2

RECORD

Maintain a safe distance of at least 100 yards away. If possible, take photos of the head, fluke, and dorsal fin.

3

WAIT

Continue to monitor the animal until guidance is received from a NOAA official. Safe entanglement response requires training.

Call US Coast Guard Channel 16 if you are without cell service

COMMON LARGE WHALES OF ALASKA



HUMBACK

Long paddle-shaped pectoral fins. Small, but prominent dorsal fin.



BELUGA

Adults are white, calves are gray. Bulbous head.



KILLER WHALE

Black & white. Prominent, tall dorsal fin.



BOWHEAD

Black, with no dorsal fin. Arctic range.



GRAY WHALE

Speckled, light gray. Short broad pectoral fins.



SPERM WHALE

Square-shaped head. Wrinkled & gray. Narrow lower jaw with teeth.

DETAILS TO REPORT

- WHALE SPECIES
- DATE & TIME
- LOCATION (LAT/LONG)
- CONDITION OF ANIMAL
- DESCRIPTION OF ENTANGLING GEAR
- DIRECTION WHALE IS HEADING

BECOME A LEVEL 1 FIRST RESPONDER FOR LARGE WHALE ENTANGLEMENTS



SCAN ME